

Street Farm, Fressingfield FSF 073

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2014/106

Client: Mr N Cook

Author: David Gill

August/2014

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Street Farm, Fressingfield

FSF 073

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Report Date: August/2014

HER Information

Site Code: FSF 073
Site Name: Street Farm, Fressingfield
Report Number 2014/106
Planning Application No: 1564/14
Date of Fieldwork: July 2014
Grid Reference: TM 26407 77376
Oasis Reference: c1-182019
Curatorial Officer: Dr R Hoggett
Project Officer: David Gill
Client/Funding Body: Mr N Cook
Client Reference: *****

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: David Gill
Date: August 2014

Approved By: Richenda Goffin
Position: Post-ex manager
Date: *****
Signed: *****

Contents

Summary

Drawing Conventions

- 1. Introduction** **1**
- 2. Archaeological and historical background** **1**

Description of Street Farmhouse 1

- 3. Results** **3**

- 4. Discussion** **4**

Plates **6**

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site location plan 2

Figure 2. Plan of Street farmhouse showing monitored area, reproduced from the architect's drawings supplied 5

List of Plates

Plates 1. Views of Street Farmhouse, a Grade II listed building 6

Plate 2. Close-studding at the eastern end of the house 7

Plate 3. The kitchen of Street Farmhouse with the floor partly excavated 8

Plate 4. A view of the large fireplace 8

Plate 5. Excavations within the fireplace 9

Plate 6. The soil profile beneath the floor of the rear range 9

Plates 7. The chimney following the removal of the brick built section of the kitchen's back wall. 10

Plate 8. Exterior view of the rear wall of the kitchen 11

Plate 9. The timber-framed wall of the rear extension 11

List of Appendices

Appendix 1. Written scheme of Investigation

Appendix 2. Oasis summary form

Summary

The ground below the kitchen and boiler room floors within Street Farmhouse, Fressingfield was excavated to a depth of 1m following a major leak of central heating oil to remove any fuel-contamination. The building dates to the late 16th/17th century and is Grade II listed. The work showed that the existing chimney fireplace was added/altered during the 18th century and evidence for earlier hearth was found. Archaeological deposits that indicated a permanent occupation of the site predating the current building were preserved at the rear of the farmhouse but the sample was too small to be characterised or dated closely.

1. Introduction

The ground below the kitchen and boiler room floors within Street Farmhouse, Fressingfield was excavated to a depth of 1m following a major leak of central heating oil to remove any fuel-contamination. The building is Grade II listed and the remedial work required conservation and planning consent (Planning application 1564/14). A condition of the consent was that the excavations were monitored by an archaeologist and this report provides a written and photographic account of the archaeological work. The report has been prepared to a specification issued by Dr Richard Hoggett of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service.

The site was inspected in a series of visits during July 2014 and the work was funded by Mr N Cook, the property owner.

2. Archaeological and historical background

Street Farmhouse is located within the core of the historic settlement at TM 26407 77376 and occupies an elevated site above an un-named tributary of the River Waveney. The farmhouse dates to the late 16th-17th century but the location suggested a high potential for earlier settlement evidence and Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds (FSF 049) have been recovered from the adjacent field to the south (Fig. 1).

Description of Street Farmhouse

The building itself is Grade II listed and has been divided into two separate dwellings; the listing dates from 1987 and describes the building as:

'Late C16/early C17, the lower section to the left perhaps the earlier. The main range was extended to the right in 1977 and this extension now forms a separate dwelling..... Set forward of the main range is a 2-storey C17 gabled addition with a half-glazed entrance door in the side wall. Internal stack to each section'.

The monitored area was located in a modernised kitchen within the building's eastern 'lower' range. The lower range is attached to the main farmhouse but is beneath a separate roof with a lower ridge which gives the appearance of a distinct and separate build (Pl. 1).

The lower range has a simple ground plan that comprises two rooms divided by a central chimney. The chimney is offset to the rear of the building to allow for a lobby-style entrance at the front and the current arrangement approximates a layout typical of the 17th century. The close studding (Pl. 2) in the eastern half of the building (now the dining room) is however likely to date from the 16th century and suggests that the building is a reworking of, or incorporated part of, an earlier house.

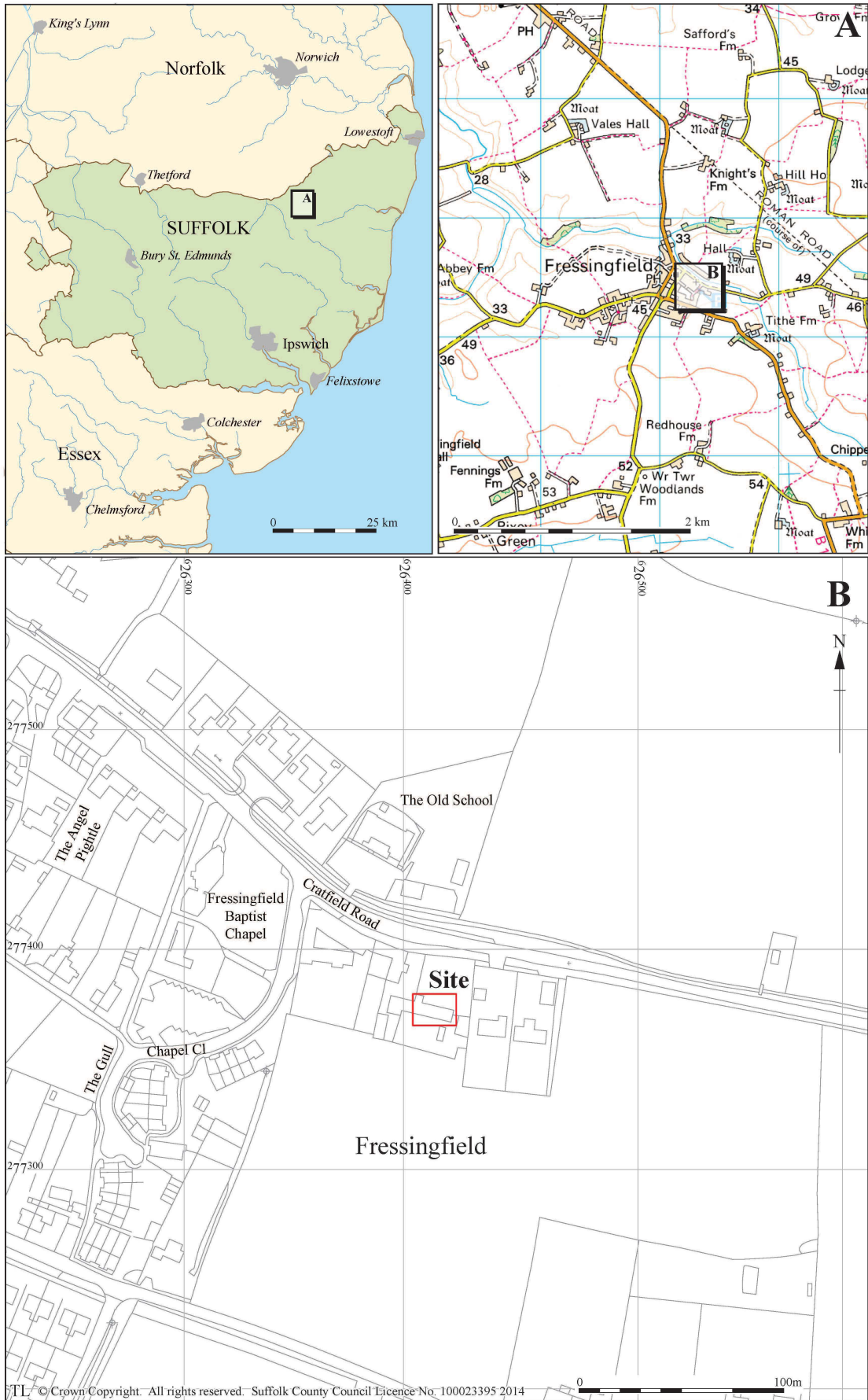


Figure 1. Location Plan for Street Farm, Fressingfield

The building was constructed with a chimney in its current position and it stands in its own narrow bay within the timber-framing. The existing brickwork however, partially envelopes the bridging beams that span the width of the house suggesting that it may be a replacement stack. Only the kitchen fireplace is visible and this has been greatly altered; the bressumer beam over the fire has been shortened and the southern pier is thought to be an insert to reduce the width of the fireplace. The brick piers are different thicknesses; the southern one is extremely slender and dates to the 18th century; later than the dating of the timber-frame.

The chimney was further altered in the 19th century with the addition of a bread oven or a (?)copper on to its south side (Pl. 7). The enlargement of the chimney/fireplace at this time necessitated the removal of the studs from the lower storey of the rear wall, alongside the fireplace, and the bread oven/copper was accessed from a contemporary rear lean-to which ran along the full-length of the lower range (Pl. 9).

The rear wall has been under pinned with a brick built dwarf wall built off a concrete foundation and, since the 1960's, a concrete floor has been inserted.

3. Results

The excavations within the building were 1m deep; the laying of a solid floor in the past had truncated the internal ground level and over most of the excavation area no evidence of the building original floor survived. The exception to this was the fire place where the work revealed a layer of burnt and decayed brick (0002), part of a previous hearth pre-dating the 18th century alteration to the fireplace (Fig. 2, S 2)). The remains of the buried hearth extended beneath the south pier (Pl. 5) and were separated from the pier base by an intervening layer of green boulder clay 0003; a layer which was interpreted as the vestigial remains of a previous floor. Charcoal residue was observed over the brick hearth and beneath it was sealed a thin layer of charcoal and disturbed clay; evidence of an occupation of the site that predated the existing house.

The removal of the rear wall and underpinning provided an opportunity to examine the soil profile which was once outside the timber-framed building but which since the 19th century had been enclosed within the rear lean-to and sealed beneath its floor (Pl. 6, Fig. 2, S1). The section showed a 500mm depth of archaeological deposits which comprised two distinct horizons. The upper horizon (0004) was made up of a disturbed/reworked, dark grey soil which contained fragments of early post-medieval brick, mortar rubble and charcoal. This was at the same level as the buried hearth inside the building and the two are likely to be approximately contemporary. The lower deposit (0005) was a dark green-brown clay with common charcoal flecks and filled a shallow flat-bottomed (?)feature cut into the top of the underlying boulder clay;

it included a small disengaged fragment of building rubble made of mortared flint but was otherwise devoid of finds. The sequence of horizon and levels observed in this section replicated that seen in the fireplace excavations described above.

Within the rear lean-to, the removal of an insert wall brick, which was added in the 1960/70's, from the lower storey of the kitchen's back wall part-exposed a complicated void between the wall-line and the chimney that had once contained a possible bread oven (Pl.7). The opening up of the wall revealed the underside of the timber-frame's mid-rail and showed the empty mortises of the lower storey studs that were removed when the chimney was altered. The bottom half of one of the principal bay posts was similarly removed and the underside of the mid-rail also shows the setting for two narrow, single-bar, mullion windows that were closely spaced on the rear wall. The windows and chimney would never have co-existed in this form so either the current chimney has been changed or the timber is reused from elsewhere.

4. Discussion

The monitoring has hinted at the complicated development of the house which a detailed study of the frame (which was not part of the monitoring brief) may be able to unravel. The presence of a specific narrow bay within the frame indicates that provision was made for a chimney from the onset, but the current one may be a replacement for the original stack (or even a wooden smoke bay). Below ground there is evidence for earlier hearths and the existing chimney was modified in the 18th and 19th century before ending up in its present form. The lower range was probably constructed as a semi-detached kitchen range to the main farmhouse when built in the 17th century and seems to have made use of a pre-existing building; it was certainly developed as a kitchen/scullery during the early 19th century.

The depth of archaeological deposits preserved at the rear of the building showed evidence that suggested a permanent occupation of the site that predates the current building (17th century); the sample however was too small to characterise the nature of the occupation in any detail or closely date it.

David Gill, August 2014

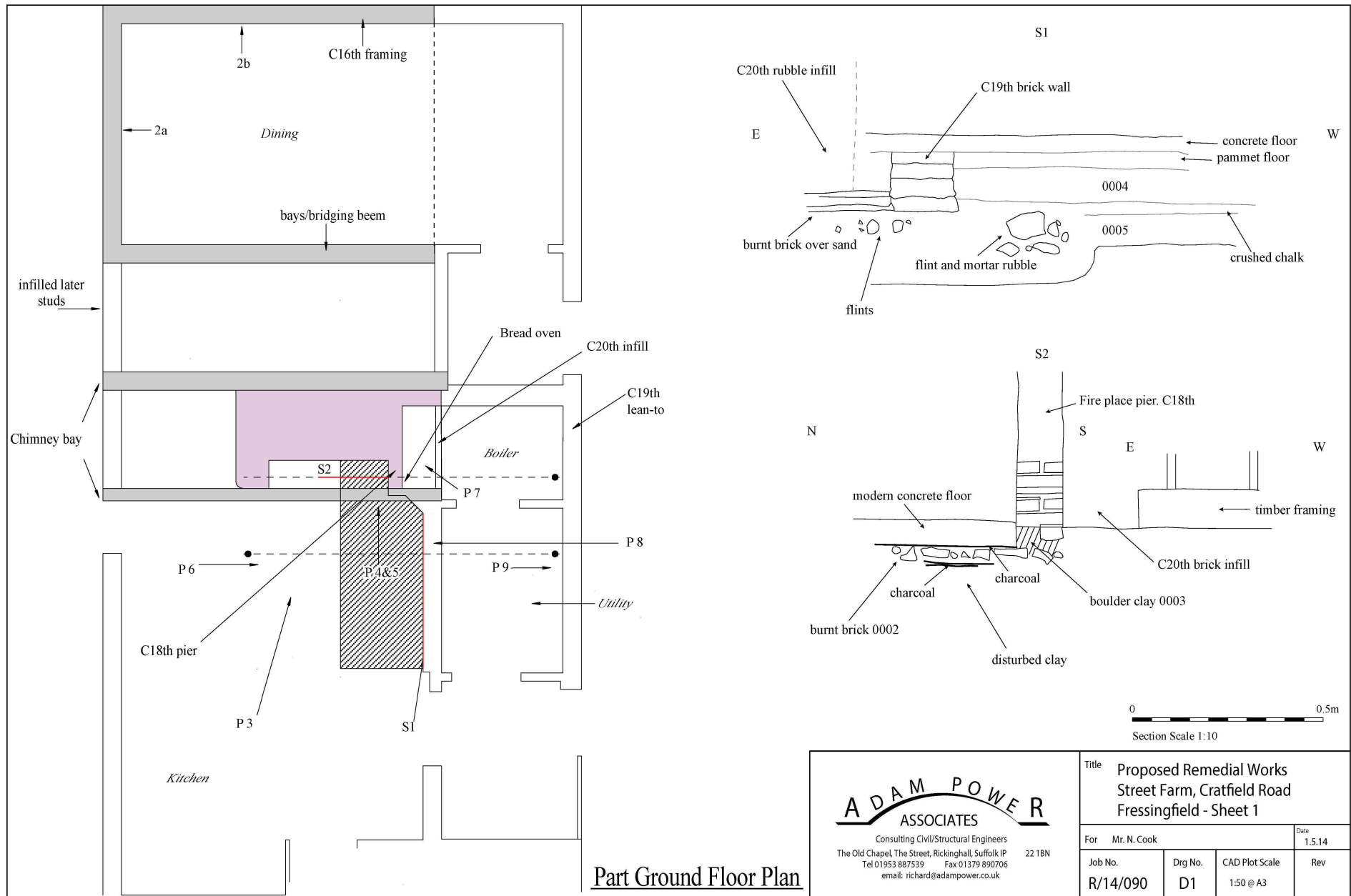


Figure 2. Ground plan of Street Farmhouse, adapted from the architect's drawing, showing viepoint of the photographs (P6 etc.) and recorded sections.

Plates



Plates 1a) and b). Street Farmhouse viewed from the north. Street Farmhouse is a Grade II listed building which in this form dates to the 17th century. The building has now been divided into two dwellings and the monitoring was in the range with the lower roof line; the end to the left of the chimney pre-dates the main house and is probably 16th century.



Plate 2 a) and b). Close-studding with concealed braces at the eastern end of the house which probably dates to 16th century. Inserted timbers and a crudely lap-jointed sill beam, to the left of the ceiling bridging beam (top), are the result of later modification. The limit of the framing (bottom) shows the original south east corner and line of the rear wall. The windows and ceiling retain their original positions.



Plate 3. The kitchen of Street Farmhouse with the floor partly excavated. The fireplace probably dates from the 18th century but was greatly altered in the 19th and 20th century. The chimney has been fitted into a narrow chimney bay but partially envelopes the bridging beams that span the width of the house suggesting that this is a replacement stack. The original back wall of the house (behind the shovels) has been underpinned with brick and concrete in the relatively recent past.



Plate 4. The large fireplace may have been reduced in width in the 18th century with the addition of the slender pier in the centre of the picture. The south (exterior face) of the chimney was subsequently altered in the 19th century with the addition of a (?) bread oven or a copper, the floor of which was preserved 300mm below the current concrete floor. The construction of the bread oven /copper necessitated the removal of a section of rear wall and was accessed from a lean-to rear range which was added to the back of the building in the 19th century.



Plate 5. Excavations within the fireplace alongside the south pier, showing a layer of decayed brick, part of a previous hearth predating the existing fireplace. The extent of the hearth continued beneath the existing fireplace pier and the two were separated by an intervening layer of green boulder clay. Charcoal residue was observed over the brick hearth and beneath it was sealed a thin layer of charcoal and disturbed clay evidence of an occupation of the site that predated the existing house.



Plate 6. The soil profile beneath the floor of the rear range after the back wall of the kitchen had been removed. The concrete was laid over a brick parget floor beneath which was a 500mm depth of disturbed soil which contained brick and mortar rubble, charcoal throughout and mortared flint. The top of the undisturbed boulder clay (at the division in the scale) was riven with a v-shaped, silt-filled feature.



Plates 7a) b) and c) The removal of the brick-built section of the kitchen's back wall revealed a complicated void between the wall and the south pier of the chimney. Previously this space had included a possible bread oven; the sooted interior of which can be seen top left. The bread oven was a late addition which breaches the line of the original rear wall and necessitated the removal of the studs from the lower wall along with the lower half of one of the principal posts. The empty stud mortises can be seen in the underside of the mid-rail (top right) which also included the setting for two small single-bar mullion windows. The unlikely juxtaposition of a window to the fireplace suggests that either the fireplace is inserted or that the timber is reused. The bottom image shows the shoulder of the original fireplace with the cross beam on the east side of the chimney tied to back wall with an iron strap rather than jointed



Plate 8. Rear wall of the kitchen, formerly the exterior wall just above the mid-rail. The infill between the studs was brick rubble behind split lathes nailed to the frame and rendered with a course daub; this treatment of the wall post-dates the style of the 16th century work seen at the eastern end of the building suggesting extensive reworking of the building in the 19th century.



Plate 9. The timber-framed wall of the rear extension with interrupted studs indicative of 19th century framing

Street Farm, Fressingfield

Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment Archaeological Monitoring

Client: Mr N Cook

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team

Author: John Craven

June 2014

Project details

Planning Application No: 1564/14
Curatorial Officer: Dr Richard Hoggett (SCCAS/FT)
Grid Reference: TL 264 774
Area: c.10sqm
HER Event No/Site Code: TBC
Oasis Reference: 182019
Project Start date: W/B 23rd June
Project Duration: c.4 days

Client/Funding Body: Mr N Cook
SCCAS/FT Project Manager: John Craven
SCCAS/FT Project Officer: Andrew Tester
SCCAS/FT Job Code: FRESSTF001

1. Background

- The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS/FT), has been contracted to monitor remedial groundworks at Street Farm, Fressingfield.
- The archaeological monitoring is required by a condition on planning application 1564/14, as requested by Dr Richard Hoggett of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT), the archaeological advisor to the planning authority.
- The condition has been placed as the property is a Grade II listed house with 16th century origins. The proposed groundworks, which involve the excavation within the kitchen and boiler room to remove contaminated ground has the potential to reveal and disturb archaeological and structural deposits relating to the past occupation of the site.
- The aim of the monitoring is to record all archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by the groundworks.

2. Archaeological method statement

- SCCAS/CT will be given 2 days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork to enable the works to be monitored effectively.
- An OASIS form has been initiated for the project and a request made for a Suffolk HER code.

2.1. Fieldwork

- The Brief requires observation of the ground works for any soil stripping and foundations on site. These ground works will be monitored as they progress or soon afterwards (as appropriate to the scale of development) by an SCCAS/FT Project Officer or Supervisor, in close liaison with the developer/contractor. Adequate allowance has been made within the quote cost to cover the recording of exposed archaeological deposits.
- Fieldwork standards will be guided by '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*' EAA Occasional Papers 14, 2003 and '*Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*' Institute of Field Archaeologists, revised 2008.
- The exposed surface from the excavations will be examined for archaeological features and finds and limited hand cleaning will be undertaken to clarify small areas as necessary and as health and safety considerations allow. Exposed archaeological features will be sectioned by hand with sampling at a normal standard for medieval and earlier deposits (i.e. 100% of structural features or graves/cremations, 50% of contained features e.g. pits, and 10-20% of linear features). Cremations will be 100% bagged and taken as samples. If thought appropriate and of archaeological benefit a metal detector search of exposed surfaces and spoil will be undertaken.
- Normal SCCAS/FT conventions, compatible with the County Historic Environment Record (HER), will be used during the site recording. Site records will be made using

a continuous numbering system. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate, either by hand or using a RTK GPS. Plans and sections of individual features, soil layers etc will be recorded at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. A digital photographic record will be made throughout the monitoring works.

- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. All finds will be brought back to the SCCAS/FT Bury St Edmunds office at the end of each day for processing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done inhouse, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in archaeology and university departments in other parts of the country.
- Bulk environmental (40 litre) soil samples will be taken from selected archaeological features where possible and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science, on the need for specialist environmental sampling.
- In the event of human remains being encountered on the site a Ministry of Justice licence for removal of human remains will be obtained. Any such find would require work in that part of the site to stop until the human remains have been removed.

2.2. Post-excavation stage

- The post-excavation work will be managed by Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff will be experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.
- All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be inked in to form a permanent archive on archivally stable base material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets. The photographic archive will be fully catalogued within the County HER photographic index.
- All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County HER requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number. Finds will be recorded and archived to minimum standards laid down by relevant groups (eg the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery or the Medieval Pottery Research Group). Finds quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- Metal finds will be x-rayed if appropriate and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to Institute for Conservation (ICON) standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the Regional Environmental Archaeologist with a clear statement of potential for further analysis.

- A full monitoring report summarising all the findings and containing a full assessment of all finds and samples will be produced, and a draft hard copy submitted to SCCAS/CT for approval. The report will contain all appropriate scale plans and sections. The monitoring report will contain a recommendation for further analysis and publication of the results as appropriate and in accordance with regional research agendas and strategies (Medlycott, M. (Ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper 24). The report will form the basis for full discharge of the relevant condition.
- On approval a printed and bound copy of the report will be submitted to the County HER. An unbound copy of the report will be included with the project archive
- A digital .pdf copy of the approved report will be supplied to the client, together with our final invoice for outstanding fees. Printed and bound copies will be supplied on request.
- The online OASIS form for the project will be completed and a .pdf version of the report uploaded to the OASIS website for online publication by the Archaeological Data Service. A copy of the completed project OASIS form will be included as an appendix.
- The client and/or landowner will be asked to deposit all of the finds from the project in the SCC archaeological store together with the project archive. The project costing includes the fee charged by SCC for this service. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCC will be completed and included in the project archive.
- The project archive will be consistent *with Management of Research in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006). The project archive will also meet the requirements detailed in 'Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2010).
- Exceptions from the above include material covered by the Treasure Act which will be reported and submitted to the appropriate authorities, and human skeletal remains which will be stored within the archive until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.
- The client and/or landowner will be made aware that if they choose not to use the SCCAS/CT storage facility they will be expected to make alternative arrangements for the long term storage of the archive that meet the requirements of SCCAS/CT.

Project Staff

Project Manager:	John Craven
Site monitoring:	SCCAS/FT Project Officer or Supervisor
Finds Manager/Post Roman finds:	Richenda Goffin
Roman Pottery/General finds:	Cathy Tester, Stephen Benfield
Prehistoric pottery:	Anna Doherty (Archaeology South-East)
Prehistoric flint:	Sarah Bates (freelance)
Faunal remains:	Julie Curl (freelance)
Human remains:	Sue Anderson (freelance)
Environmental samples:	Val Fryer (freelance)

3. Health and safety/ Risk assessment

The site will be under the control of the site owner/building contractor and SCCAS staff will follow any site requirements such as inductions/PPE that are necessary. All SCCAS staff are experienced in working on a variety of archaeological sites and are aware of SCCAS H&S policies.

- Site staff will wear protective clothing at all times on site (hard hat, high visibility vest, steel-toe cap boots). The PO will report to the main contractor/developer at the beginning of each site visit. Most staff hold the Quarry H&S certificate and CSCS cards.
- Vehicles will be parked in a safe location.
- No holes or trenches deeper than 1.2m will be entered unless they have been suitably stepped or shored and assessed to be safe after consultation with the site contractor. They will not be entered if no-one else is in the close vicinity.
- Due care and attention will be paid to site and ground conditions. Safe routes etc will be adhered to and edges of excavations avoided unless necessary.
- A fully charged mobile phone will be on site at all times.
- Site staff will be aware of the location of the nearest A&E unit and a vehicle will be on site at all times. It is likely that the relevant PO will be a qualified First Aider.
- For single person working Suffolk County Council operates a 'reporting-in' procedure at the end of each day.
- The main contractor will check for overhead and underground services and potential ground contamination.
- Suffolk County Council holds full insurance policies for field work (details on request).

Emergency contacts

Local Police	Norwich Road, Halesworth, IP19 8HJ	101
Local GP	Fressingfield Medical Centre, New Street, Fressingfield, Eye, Suffolk, IP21 5PJ	01379 586227
Location of nearest A&E	West Suffolk Hospital Hardwick Lane, Bury St. Edmunds, IP33 2QZ	01284 713000

Other Contacts

Suffolk Fleet Maintenance		01359 270777
Suffolk Press Office		01473 264395
EMS (Jezz Meredith)		01473 583288
H&S (Stuart Boulter)		01473 583290

Appendix 2

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: suffolkc1-182019

Project details

Project name	Street Farm, Fressingfield
Short description of the project	The ground below the kitchen and boiler room floors within Street Farmhouse, Fressingfield was excavated to a depth of 1m following a major leak of central heating oil to remove any fuel-contamination. The building dates to the late 16th/17th century and is Grade II listed. The work showed that the existing chimney fireplace was added/altered during the 18th century and evidence for earlier hearth was found. Archaeological deposits that indicated a permanent occupation of the site predating the current building were preserved at the rear of the farmhouse but the sample was too small to be characterised or dated closely.
Project dates	Start: 15-07-2014 End: 29-07-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FSF 073 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	BUILDING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK FRESSINGFIELD FSF 073 Street Farm, Fressingfield
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 26407 77376 52.3470953913 1.32453721399 52 20 49 N 001 19 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.00m Max: 35.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dr Richard Hoggett
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	David Gill
Type of sponsor/funding body	Land owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr. Nick Cook

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Street Farm, Fressingfield FSF 073 archaeological monitoring report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Gill,D.'
Other bibliographic details	2014/106
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Shire hall, Bury St Edmunds
Description	SCCAS client report/A4/soft-bound/colour
Entered by	David Gill (david.gill@suffolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	9 September 2014

Archaeological services Field Projects Team

Delivering a full range of archaeological services

- Desk-based assessments and advice
- Site investigation
- Outreach and educational resources
- Historic Building Recording
- Environmental processing
- Finds analysis and photography
- Graphics design and illustration

Contact:

Rhodri Gardner

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rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/